

Appl. No. 09/862,993
Amd dated December 9, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-23: Canceled.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A method for transacting transfers of agricultural products, the method comprising:

- preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of an agricultural product between an elevator and agricultural producers;
- ~~executing a software application on a computer to automatically aggregate aggregating~~ the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the elevator and a derivatives provider;
- observing the price of the agricultural product at observation points over a period of time;
- specifying a minimum price;
- for each of the observation points, selecting the minimum price in the event the observed price is less than the minimum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is greater than the minimum price;
- calculating a price for a quantity of the agricultural product based on the average of the selected prices and a discount below the average; and
- paying to each agricultural producer an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising executing a financial swap between the elevator and the derivatives provider.

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising:

- executing a financial swap between the elevator and an elevator service company; and
- executing a financial swap between the elevator service company and the derivatives provider.

Appl. No. 09/862,993
Amended December 9, 2004
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Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising receiving a marketing fee from the derivatives provider.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising hedging the risks of the aggregated contracts.

Claim 29 (Original): The method of claim 24, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the agricultural producers.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): A method for transacting transfers of agricultural products, the method comprising:

- preparing contracts for delivery of quantities of an agricultural product between an elevator and agricultural producers;
- ~~executing a software application on a computer to automatically aggregate aggregating~~ the contracts into a smaller number of contracts between the elevator and a derivatives provider;
- observing the price of the agricultural product at observation points over a period of time;
- specifying a maximum price;
- for each of the observation points, selecting the maximum price in the event the observed price is greater than the maximum price, and selecting the observed price in the event the observed price is less than the maximum price;
- calculating a price for a quantity of the agricultural product based on the average of the selected prices and a premium above the average; and
- paying to each agricultural producer an amount based upon the calculated price.

Claim 31 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising executing a financial swap between the elevator and the derivatives provider.

Appl. No. 09/862,993

Amd dated December 9, 2004

Reply to Office Action of October 14, 2004

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising:

executing a financial swap between the elevator and an elevator service company; and

executing a financial swap between the elevator service company and the derivatives provider.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising receiving a marketing fee from the derivatives provider.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising hedging the risks of the aggregated contracts.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 30, further comprising maintaining anonymity between the derivatives provider and the agricultural producers.